

Glad Tidings

January 2021

"Buy the truth, and sell it not." (Prov. 23:23)

2021

FROM THE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH
LET US GIVE THANKS FOR OUR RELIGION
Strength For Today And Bright Hope For Tomorrow

Philippians 4:13

I Corinthians 15:19.

FROM THE PASTORS DESK

Time is marching on and never slows down but what do we do with our time? Solomon tells us about time. "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:" (Eccl. 3:1) There is a time to be born and a time to die and Solomon gives us ample contrast between different times of purpose. Neither Solomon nor any other writer ever gives reason for a time to be complacent in the service of the Lord. The time to sleep is usually at night when we lie down in bed but there is never a time to fall asleep spiritually in the kingdom of God. If we find ourselves in this condition, it is time to awake.

When we are asleep, physically or spiritually, we can't see light and are unaware of any danger that may be present. Paul writes in Eph. 5:14, "Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light." In this sleepy condition, they had no light and were dead to the fellowship of the Lord and even consorting with the unfruitful works of darkness that Paul mentions. Paul goes on to exhort, "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil." (Eph. 5:15-16)

We cannot save time because once it is gone, it is gone forever. However, to redeem the time is to rescue it from loss in fruitless activity. Thus Paul says to walk "circumspectly" which according to the Webster's 1828 dictionary means "Cautiously; with watchfulness every way; with attention to guard against surprise or danger." We are told numerous times in scripture to watch and pray which cannot be done in a sleepy condition. Walking in the light is beneficial to those engaged in this walk and to others as well. "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." (I John 1:7) This is ongoing for the child of God.

The trumpet was blown in the Old Testament to sound the alarm and awake the inhabitants of the city to action, either in duty or alert to any enemy. The gospel trumpet is sounded by ministers to awake those sleeping in service to God to action. "Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain:.." (Joel 2:1) Many today do not seem to be alarmed about the complacency in Zion and need to be awake to the dangers present and arise from the dead so they can see the fallacy of such inactivity.

I have heard many ministers say as they entered the pulpit, "If you haven't started praying yet; it's not too late; start praying now." They were desirous of prayers for God's Spirit in bringing the message. The time is now; it's not too late to awake out of sleep as Paul writes in Rom. 13:11, "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed." Paul was not writing to children who were still in the dark night of sin but who were children of the day and instructed to put on the armour of light. They could not do this in a sleepy condition. It was "high time" and it is high time today as we are one second, one hour, one day, one month and one year nearer to the culmination of our salvation in heaven.

The Lord expects better things of those who are recipients of his saving grace and enlightened by the gospel. Paul writes to the church at Thessalonica concerning the second coming of Jesus Christ and exhorts them what they must do so that day should not overtake them as a thief in the night. "Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober." (I Thess. 5:6) We can never rest on past blessings to the extent that we don't press forward. We must watch and be sober which entails activity. Paul goes on to write, "But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation." (I Thess.5:8)

The child of God that isn't vigilant and laboring in the kingdom will experience spiritual poverty as a natural man will who doesn't work. Solomon writes, "Love not sleep, lest thou come to poverty; open thine eyes, and thou shalt be satisfied with bread." (Prov. 20:13) Sometime we just close our eyes to the facts at hand rather than face the truth; this is danger for the individual and the church. Remember a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump. Solomon also writes, "Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth; and thy want as an armed man." (Prov. 24:33-34)

When the day dawns, it is time to awake from sleep, get dressed and do our daily chores. The spiritual day has dawned; it is time to awake out of our spiritual doldrums and be about the Master's business. Solomon said there was a time to love and a time to hate. It is time to hate the world and love the Lord with all our heart, mind, soul and body and avoid drifting into spiritual sleep. (Elder Larry Wise)

**GLAD TIDINGS
EDITORIAL OFFICE**

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Elder Larry Wise
12932 Hwy 9 S.
Randolph, MS 38864

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RIGHTLY DIVIDE THE WORD OF TRUTH

By Elder J. H. Oliphant (Deceased)

I have hundreds of times urged that there is sweet peace found in obedience, that we cannot have peace and rest of mind in sinful paths, hence we should eschew evil, seek peace and ensure it. We should distinguish that salvation in which we are quickened and that which "we work out." God's word does not call on us to be quickened, or to be born again: but it does, hundreds and thousands of times, show it is our duty to obey. Now, if obedience is of grace in the same sense that being born again is of grace, how is it that we are called upon to do the one and not the other? We can scarcely see a command, exhortation or encouragement to obey the Lord and do right. And we may read every line in the Old and New Testament and **not once find it is our duty to be born again.** Now, if both are of grace in the same sense, why are we, times without limit, exhorted to do one, and scores of motives laid before us to induce us thereto, and not once exhorted to do the other? The fact is we should make the distinction here.

We should either exhort every body to be born again, or nobody to obedience, or we should make a plain, clear distinction between obedience and eternal salvation. And as the Apostles of old, we should exhort one another to love and good works. We should use their arguments to induce the people of God to serve the Lord and do right. The motives found in the Bible are numerous. The Scriptures appeal to us from the love of God, and on account of mercies received to our love of life and good days, to our need and love of rest, and countless motives mentioned. We need not despise a man if we find

him serving God in order to enjoy His presence and approval, or for fear of "falling", or becoming a "Castaway." All of these motives and scores of others are out before him. God does not deal with His children as the boy does with his marbles and say, "When I want you in the right place I will put you there." His government is parental, and moral, and not physical. We are liable to extremes on both sides. If we urge that the presence and work of the Spirit is necessary to obedience, **just as it is necessary** to regeneration we deny obedience being voluntary: for in regeneration we are not voluntary, and so regeneration is not a virtue on our part. And if the Spirit's power and presence is exerted in our obedience, **just as it is in our regeneration**, then there is no duty in obedience, as we perform no duty in regeneration. And so on the other side we are liable to forget that we must have grace whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and Godly fear. We must worship "in spirit and truth", if we worship at all.

If we take one extreme, we take away all vice or virtue from the comfort of God's people, and if we take the other we substitute cold formality for the worship of God.

The word "**Grace**" is not always used in the same sense, "By grace ye are saved." Here the doctrine of grace is referred to, the principle from which God acts in our salvation. But Paul says, "Let us have grace whereby we may serve God," etc. He refers to the gracious influences and presence of the Lord, and without grace in this last sense, there can be no true obedience; there could be no peace in our midst. Sure enough, let us have grace. "We certainly need it and can never be happy or useful without it."

(From "*The Gospel Messenger*", September, 1920)

OBEDIENT UNTO DEATH

How we admire the obedience a dog shows to its master! Archibald Rutledge wrote that one day he met a man whose dog had just been killed in a forest fire. Heartbroken, the man explained to Rutledge how it happened. Because he worked out-of-doors, he often took his dog with him. That morning, he left the animal in a clearing and gave him a command to stay and watch his lunch bucket while he went into the forest. His faithful friend understood, for that's exactly what he did. Then a fire started in the woods, and soon the blaze spread to the spot where the dog had been left. But he didn't move. He stayed right where he was, in perfect obedience to his master's word. With tearful eyes, the dog's owner said, "I always had to be careful what I told him to do, because I knew he would do it."

Our Daily Bread.

PRAYER

By Elder Walter Cash (Deceased)

“Pray without ceasing.”—1 Thess. 5:17 (Excerpt from a sermon published in the “Messenger of Peace”, March 15, 1923)

Nearly every form of religion includes prayer. The heathen prays to his idol. In many religions that are called Christian the devotee prays to what he understands to be God, or rather to a god of such attributes as his imagination pictures. In all these forms it is the idea of him who prays that the one to whom prayer is made, is above him who offers the prayer. It needs no argument to prove that the idol has not as much power as he who gave it form and fashioned it. Those who think to pray to the God of the Bible, in their ideas of Him, put Him above the idol god, but in many cases strip Him of the power that is attributed to Him in the Bible. The God of the Bible has all power, and governs according to His will, and yet He will have His children ask Him for the things that He will give them. All those whose lives have been recorded in the Bible, who have been approved, have been persons who have prayed to God. This is notably true of Moses. Moses was a great man, and put in place of authority, yet he prayed to God. All men should be impressed with the fact that they are not independent of the God of heaven, for He rules over all. All the blessings they have in a natural way come from God, and He can shut up the heavens that rain will not come upon the earth—famine and distress will come without His blessing. These blessings come upon the unbelieving, for God is good and forbearing. His rain falls on the just and unjust. He sent the flood to show how He hated sin, and that He had power to punish sinners, and yet He made a covenant that He would no more send such a judgment upon the earth, to show His kindness and longsuffering. It is not that men are not great sinners now that the earth is not destroyed, it is because of the longsuffering of God, and because He can carry out His purpose over the rebelliousness of man. But when the nations forget Him as the ruler, and rebellion and injustice grow great, He lets His judgment fall, that they may know there is a God in the heavens. The great world's war has proven that the words of Jesus are true, that they that take the sword, and by it endeavor to rule, shall perish by the sword. So God is still ruling, and He will continue to rule in this way that nations may fear Him. If the manifestation of God's power among natural men in the world is so plain, what may we not expect among those to whom He has manifested Himself in a special way?

Moses prayed to the Lord to spare Israel when they did not keep the statutes of the Lord, went after heathen nations. On one occasion the Lord, representing his justice, said to Moses to stand aside

that He might destroy the Israelites and make of Moses a nation. But Moses representing the mercy of God prayed that Israel might be spared. This was a prayer of faith, for Moses knew that the Lord's mercy endureth forever, and that He had promised good concerning Israel. The Lord hearkened to Moses and spared Israel, only visiting chastisement instead of destruction.

Elijah prayed that it might not rain, and it rained not for a space of three years and six months. He then prayed again, and the heavens gave rain. James brings this instance up to show the efficacy of prayer, and to justify his statement that “The effectual, fervent prayer of the righteous man availeth much.” The word here translated “effectual” may also be translated “operative.” There is no use for us to try to philosophize on how the righteous man comes to pray. We may argue that he is inspired to pray, or given the spirit to pray, but the text taken does not say to pray without ceasing when the spirit is given you to pray. Jesus, in teaching to pray, did not first introduce the subject by saying that you cannot pray, until the Lord gives you the spirit of prayer. It is true, however, that no one can and will pray in faith and fervency until he has been given the spirit of prayer. But, whomsoever the Lord quickens, is given the spirit of prayer. The publican prayed, and it was the right spirit too. But there is such a thing as quenching the spirit. “Prayer is the Christian's vital breath,” and not the working of a carnal, reasoning mind.

David believed in prayer. Some of his psalms are entirely an expression of prayer. He said, “Evening, and morning, and at noon will I pray and cry aloud, and He will hear my voice.” Daniel believed in prayer, and was willing that all men should know that he trusted that God would help him. So he prayed three times a day, and showed that he was praying by His attitude, and, doubtless, by his voice also. When it was decreed by the king that he should not thus pray he dared to disregard the edict of the king, because he believed that the God to whom he prayed was mightier than the king and all the peoples of the earth.

Greatest of all the examples of prayer is that of Jesus Himself. It is perfectly absurd to say that He, being God, did not need to pray. He did not pray as God, He prayed as Jesus, who is the Son of God, and also the son of Mary. He was made flesh like unto His brethren, those for whom He died, and being touched with the feeling of their weaknesses, He prayed. He said, to express His faith in prayer, that the Father heard Him always. He prayed aloud at times that others might know to whom He prayed, and that His prayer was heard and answered. This should shut the mouths of all who are disposed to theorize about prayer.

Prayer is the cry of a felt need, and goes up on the wings of faith to Him who has power to answer, and

whose disposition is to relieve those who cry unto Him. Jesus spoke a parable on the subject of prayer, the teaching being that God would hear those who continue to pray unto Him (Luke 18:1). So likely are we to forget to pray, that it is mentioned some set times to pray; Daniel prayed three times a day. Peter went up on the housetop at the hour of prayer. Luke records (Acts 16:13) that there was a place down by the riverside where prayer was wont to be made. The Lord's house is called a "house of prayer," so our rules prescribe that our services are to be opened and closed with prayer. It would be better to have a set time to pray than not to pray at all. What we are not careful to do regularly, we are likely to neglect until we do not do at all. A spirit of prayer can be cultivated as can other virtues.

A prayerless church would be a cold church indeed. The early church believed in and trusted in prayer. The church had a prayer meeting at the house of Mary, the mother of John, when Peter was in prison. The Lord delivered Peter, and he came to the house where they were praying. They had been praying earnestly for his deliverance, but of course they could not know how the Lord would do it. So we pray from the heart and not from the head. When Peter came to the house they could hardly be convinced in mind that the Lord had delivered in the way he had been delivered, because the way of the Lord is past finding out. So we pray for a thing and not understand how the Lord can answer our prayer. A story is told of a mother who was much distressed because her son intended to go to sea. She confided her trouble to a minister, telling him of the prayer of her heart. He saw her years later and recalled her interest about her son, and asked her about him. She replied that her prayer was answered but admitted her son did go to sea. "How then," said the minister, "was your prayer answered?" "O", said she, "All I desired was the safety of my boy. I prayed that he might not go to sea, not thinking that the Lord could care for him there, but he did. . .

(From "Elder Walter Cash Autobiography and Sermons")

PRAYER QUOTES

When thou prayest, rather let thy heart be without words than thy words without heart.—John Bunyan

You can do more than pray, after you have prayed, but you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed.—John Bunyan

Prayer will make a man cease from sin, or sin will entice a man to cease from prayer.—John Bunyan

"Quench not the Spirit"—I Thess. 5:19

REDEMPTION NOT AN ISOLATED EVENT



By Elder Guy Hunt (Deceased)

A person will never understand the full meaning of redemption unless they understand some things about what happened before the death of Jesus on the cross, what actually happened on the cross, and what the benefits of that victory will be for those he loved and died for. While there were many who extolled the movie, "The Passion of Christ", it is equally important to know why Christ was willing to suffer as he did, and then to have a clear understanding of the full and complete victory this suffering brought.

Many cannot connect the suffering with the election and the everlasting love of God, Yet, there would have been no death of Christ, had there been no choice and election and had there not been an everlasting love of God for his chosen people. Christ connects the redemption, the before and after very clearly in John's writing. "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day." John 6:37-39

Christ was given a people before the redemption. Many think that he came in order that he might have a people come to him after the redemption. It was the Father's will that he come. It was also the Father's will that he should lose nothing, or anyone, but raise it up at the last day. The total victory or the success of his suffering was told us in the writing of Isaiah. "Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities." Isa. 53:10-11

We have to admit the pleasure, or the will of God, prospered in the hand of Jesus, or else we must say the will of God in his work does not always come to

pass. We have to admit the victory over sin, or we belittle the redemption. If we admit to the victory, we understand why all who he loves with an everlasting love will be in heaven.

It should come as no shock to any lover of Jesus, that as sure as he bore our iniquities, they are put away forever in the justification. That was the promise.

Those elected and predestinated were redeemed on the Cross. Those redeemed on the cross will all be in heaven without the loss of one child. The redemption was for all those who had grace treasured in Christ, before the world began. Heaven is for those redeemed on the cross. They are the same ones. They were given to Christ by God the Father.

The glories of Heaven will be but the final chapter of God exercising his power on behalf of those he loves.

--Guy Hunt.

(From *"The Pathway of Truth"*, February, 2005)

Something To Think About

by Elder Bobby Willis (Deceased)

July 29, 2015



The Fulfillment of Deuteronomy 18:15-19

Deuteronomy 15 **"The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken; 16 According to all that thou desiredst of the Lord thy God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God, neither let me see this great fire any more, that I die not. 17 And the Lord said unto me, They have well spoken that which they have spoken. 18 I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. 19 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him."**

The fulfillment of prophecy gives the believer (born again Child of God) a presence of hope, contentment, and reassurance when he is able to see its culmination in the scriptures. There are a number

of prophecies which can be noted as fulfilled which Jesus Himself spoke of in His own gospel.

Moses was a type of Christ on a number of occasions. His prophecy came by the inspiration of God. In Deuteronomy 18:15-19, we find just such prophecy which came true in the very Son of God Himself – Jesus Christ. Notice the words of Peter in Acts 3:22 as he quoted Moses, **"For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you."** Before anyone thinks that Moses was like Christ in every aspect, pay close attention to the words "like unto me." Not, just like me, but "like unto me." As Moses spoke true prophecy, so Christ would speak true prophecy. As Moses was a leader of Israel, the chosen nation, Christ is the head (leader) of the church, a home for the elect chosen Children of God. Moses led Israel to their natural home, the Land of Canaan, and Christ, by His Spirit, leads us to our spiritual home, the church of the living God. There are many more ways in which Christ was "like unto" Moses. Both Moses and Christ were law-givers, and, they were both mediators.

How then can we know that a prophet was indeed a true prophet? The answer is in Deuteronomy 18:22, "When a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him." In Deuteronomy 34:9-11 we find a rendering of where Moses laid his hands upon Joshua to signify that he would follow him as prophet and leader of Israel. However, Joshua was not the one of which Moses had spoken of in Deuteronomy 18:15-19. Notice, when Moses was speaking of Joshua in verse 9 of chapter 34, he followed it by saying, "And there arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face..." This proves that Joshua was not the one Moses had spoken about in Deuteronomy 18, neither were others such as David, Isaiah, or Daniel.

There could be only one "like unto me" (Moses), and that would be the one which Peter recognized as the fulfillment of Moses' prophecy. Peter said in Acts 3:18, "But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled." Then in verse 20 he said, "And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:..."

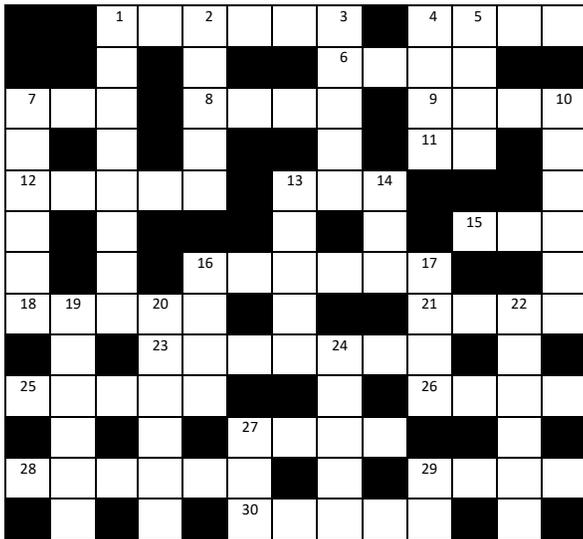
When we see such bold expressions we should in all sincerity and humbleness, believe them as the truth they are. Luke shares this of our Lord right after His resurrection in Luke 24:25, "Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:..." Jesus reminded the Jews,

(Continued on Page 6)

BIBLE CROSSWORD WORLD

ACROSS:

1. What Elisha smote the waters with & divided.
4. The ___walk, lepers cleansed, the dead raised.
6. ___was a preacher of righteousness in the OT.
7. ___with patience the race that is set before you.
8. John was exiled on the ___of Patmos.
9. Jesus is the ___ yesterday, today and forever.
11. Tuberculosis.
12. You aren't your own but are bought with a ___.
13. God made the hearing ear and the seeing ___.
15. I once ___ lost but now am found.
16. One of the malefactors on the side of Jesus on the cross ___ on Him.
18. O ___and see that the Lord is good. Mouth use.
21. ___ my ___thers house are many mansions.
23. I ___all things for the elect's sake—Paul. Plural.
25. Blow the trumpet in Zion ___an alarm in my Mt.
26. Love thy neighbor and ___thy enemy. Detest.
27. Name of Amalek king spared by king Saul.
28. Look not at the things that are seen but to the ___ eternal things. Not visible.
29. David did fast and ___ for his sick child who died.
30. Pilate wrote a ___ and put it on the cross that Jesus of Nazareth was King of the Jews.



(Answers on Page 9)

DOWN:

1. In my Father's house are many ___ said Jesus.
2. Make a joyful ___unto the Lord all ye lands.
3. If thine ___is hungry, feed him. Not a friend.
4. The ___shall be first and the first shall be ___.
5. Wicked king of Israel and husband of Jezebel.
7. Ten spies brought back an evil ___ of Canaan.
10. Prophet received a double portion of the Spirit.
13. Name of young man who spoke last to Job.
14. Same as 13 across.
16. ___ your heart and not your garments. Tear.
17. The one that betrayed Jesus was he who dipped his hand in the ___ with Jesus.

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

DOWN:

19. Moreover the law entered that sin might ___.
20. Through the ___mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us.
22. Honour thy ___ and thy mother.
24. Israel was to ___ the lamb whole over the fire.
27. Go to the ___thy sluggard and be wise. Insect.
29. ___all like sheep have gone astray.

OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES

A mother tells the story of her 4 year old son to whom she would tell, when they would travel on long trips, to lay down and go to sleep; that way the long trip would be over with quicker. One Sunday morning he lay on the church pew and was going to sleep. His mother punched him and told him he needed to stay awake. The 4 year old told her, "Mom, I'm trying to get this over with quicker." Kids have a way of using good advice to their advantage but sometimes in a negative way.—*Editor*

THE NEW YEAR

By Elder Larry Wise

The New Year has come once more,
 We know not what might be in store.
 We trust God knows and will provide,
 Even in the midst of a great divide.

We must have His grace day by day,
 To live and walk in a righteous way.
 The throne is open to those in need,
 Bow your heads to find grace indeed.

The year may be filled with many a fear,
 But God has promised to always be near.
 So give your all as the year moves ahead,
 Trust the Savior who suffered and bled.

Something To Think About

(Continued from Page 5)

who were nigh to persecute Him, of this, "For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me; for he wrote of me. But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?" (John 5:46-47). Simply put, we are not to be as the unbelieving Jews. "Think About It!"

Elder Bobby Willis
 Editor, ShareTheWord
 Mobile, AL.

CHURCH NEWS

The 5th Sunday night Fellowship Meeting in January, 2021 (Jan. 31) will be hosted by Bethany Primitive Baptist Church, Ecu, MS with service beginning at 5:30 p.m. There will be no supper prior to beginning of service. This meeting rotates between New Prospect, Laodicea, Bethany and Hopewell Primitive Baptist churches. Elder Larry Wise is the Pastor of Bethany.

Covid-19 is still taking its toll among special meetings among Primitive Baptist Churches and some of their ministers and members of respective congregations have had the virus and have had difficulty recovering. We are praying for better days as the year progresses and churches will be able to assemble with less concern about being infected or infecting someone else. We miss being unable to greet one another as we formerly did because of the concern of infecting someone as we may have the virus and not realize it.—*Editor*

Macedonia Primitive Baptist Church, Ackerman, MS is planning an open meeting (virus permitting) in February. It will be only on Saturday, morning and afternoon. More details in Feb. of Glad Tidings. Elder David Wise is Pastor of Macedonia.

THE NEW YEAR

“In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.” (Isa. 6:1) The prophet Isaiah saw the glory of the Lord with Him high and lifted up. I pray that we will be able to see our blessed Lord Jesus Christ, high and lifted up, every time we assemble in the house of God and hear the glorious gospel of the grace of God. Jesus humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. He was exalted, crowned with glory and honour, and sat down on the right hand of the majesty on high. By faith we are enabled to see through the Spirit in the gospel mirror our blessed Lord who was given a name above every name. In Him, we live, move and have our being. Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Amen! Isaiah saw the thrice holy God as the seraphims cried one to another, “Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts”. (Isa. 6:3)—*Editor*

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Many will usher in the New Year with outlandish partying and reveling, even in spite of the Covid virus. Wouldn't it be better to begin the year praying that God would have mercy upon us individually and as a nation that we might honor Him once more?—*Editor*

THREE REMARKS FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

By Elder R. H. Pittman (Deceased)

1st. CHRISTMAS:--It means Christ's Birthday. And December 25th is **the appointed day**. But the cold winter and rainy season of Judea was an unseasonable time for flocks and shepherds to have been at night in the fields of Bethlehem. And it is **very doubtful that they were** or that our Saviour was born in mid-winter. God has wisely hidden the day from man **to teach us to worship Him** and not worship days and seasons. But the season should be one **of joy, of thanksgiving, and of giving**; and as we give gifts to the young and to each other,, let us not forget the gift of Jesus for the salvation of poor sinners, for He is the greatest Gift of all gifts.

2nd. DON'T FORGET YOUR PASTOR:--That life which does not give something of value, of comfort, and of joy to others, is a mis-spent life. “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” “The Lord loveth a cheerful giver.” Christmas season is of all times in the year, the season of giving. Now, as thousands may read this who are blessed with faithful pastors, let me suggest that you do not forget them. I fear many of our people do not appreciate as they should the ministers which God hath given them. The Editor appreciates every kindness shown him, and every gift toward maintaining this paper and sending it free to the poor and unfortunate, but **don't forget your pastor**.

3rd. “MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR”—This is a usual salutation about Christmas time, and bespeaks good wishes. Surely I have in my heart good wishes for all my subscribers, and as the Christmas season will come and go, and the New Year will have ushered in before another issue of this paper, I will here say to each one of you—A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. “The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all”. R. H. P.
(From “*Advocate and Messenger*”, December, 1938)

EXCERPTS GLAD TIDINGS READER LETTERS

Bro. Larry,

Thank you for the Glad Tidings each month. We look forward to it each time. It has been a strange year but with God's guidance have made it this far. Keep up the good work.

Love,
Mack & Janice Holder
Cleveland, TN

Blow ye the trumpet blow; exalt the Lamb of God...The year of Jubilee is come, return ye ransomed sinners home.

THE APOSTLE PETER

Part 3



By Elder Rick Taylor
Booneville, Mississippi

The personality of the Apostle

Everyone is different in some ways. We are not alike completely. Personality is one way that we are different one from another. The Apostle Peter was different in this way too. The Apostle John was known for a meek and mild personality. Peter had a personality that was somewhat very different than what John's was. Peter's personality was forward and rash topped off with an enthusiastic disposition. We see examples of this in Matthew 17:4 Matthew 16:21-23. John 13:8.

We begin with Matthew 17. Matthew 17:1-3 **"And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into a high mountain apart, And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him."** His face shined, his raiment was white as snow, and Moses and Elias was seen there talking to him:

Matthew 17:4, **"Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias."** Peter was so thrilled to see this sight; His enthusiasm is at its peak as he declares let tabernacles be made for these three men! Thinking that Moses and Elias were equal to Christ. However God the Father corrected him, for this rash statement. Matthew 17:5-6, **"While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him. And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid."** God said, "this is my beloved Son! Hear ye him." Don't put Moses and Elias up on the same standing with Jesus in your faith, by equally building for them tabernacles. The man you have

been following is Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Greater than Moses or Elias, hear you him!

Second example: Matthew 16:21, **"From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day."** Peter had not yet realized the significance of what Christ had said. All he could see out of this was death and sadness about his Lord.

Matthew 16:22, **"Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee."** Peter was saying **"no this can't happen"**. I will not entertain such an idea as this! However, it was Satan using Peter's personality to attempt to thwart the Lord from fulfilling his mission to lay down his life for the sheep.

Matthew 16:23, **"But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men."** Peter's forwardness and outspoken demeanor again led him to saying the wrong thing. It got him a rebuke from the Lord. Satan had just been using him.

Third Example: **"Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad."** Matthew 26:31-33. **"Peter answered and said unto him, Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended."** (V. 33) Now I believe that Peter thought that he was being sincere when he said this to the Lord. But he was wrong again: for the Lord then would tell him what he Peter would do this very night.

Matthew 26:34, **"Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice."** Peter would deny that he even knew him to three different people, that very night!

Luke 22:60-62: **"And Peter said, Man, I know not what thou sayest. And immediately, while he yet spake, the cock crew. And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crew, thou shalt deny me thrice. And Peter went out, and wept bitterly."**

By the grace of the almighty God, Peter wouldn't keep making mistakes like these. He would grow in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ in the days to come, particularly after the day of Pentecost, and then we would find a very different Peter.

May the Lord shape our personality so that we will give the full glory unto Him as we walk here on this side of glory.

R.L. Taylor

Line upon line, here a little, there a little.

SET THINE HOUSE IN ORDER



By Elder Herman Clark
luka, Mississippi

In the book of Isaiah Chapter 38, we find words concerning Hezekiah. Isaiah the prophet pronounced death upon Hezekiah. He said "...Set thine house in order: for thou shalt die, and not live." Doctors sometime look upon their patients and tell them the same thing. A patient may have terminal cancer or some other dreaded disease. What a dreadful thing it must be that one be told "Set thine house in order: for thou shalt die, and not live." When the sentence of death is passed upon one such as Hezekiah, I am sure there are tears that fall. Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed unto the Lord. I know of myself there have been times in which I turned my face toward the wall, shedding tears and praying in silence that no one in the house knew of my prayers except the Lord of Heaven.

Paul the apostle teaches us in Romans 5:12 "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:" Surely death waits upon each of us. We do not know when it will come. However, in the case of Hezekiah, he knew death was just around the corner, or very near.

Notice the prayer of Hezekiah. "Remember now, O Lord, I beseech thee..." God does not have to be reminded of our good works for it is written in Heb. 6:10 "For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister." David of old time said "Although my house be not so with God; yet he hath made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things, and sure: for this is all my salvation, and all my desire, although he make it not to grow." How many of us could truthful say, "My house has been perfect..." I cannot say such words and if I did it would be a lie. Hezekiah said "...Remember now, O Lord, I beseech thee, how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and had done that which is good in thy sight..." David looked back in time and saw that his house was not so with God. He had sinned against God. His family had been in turmoil, one son trying to take the kingdom for himself against David. Yet, David wept

sorely concerning the death of Absalom. He said "...O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!"

I am thankful that God hears our prayers. God works according to his will. Isaiah was sent back to Hezekiah with a sweet message. "Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will add unto thy days fifteen years. And I will deliver thee and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria: and I will defend this city."

God works contrary to nature doing those things that only the great Supreme Being can do. He gave this king a sign. God caused the sun to go backward ten degrees. What a great sign. I don't think that we should look for signs today, but remember the promises of God. It makes me to rejoice in one promise that Jesus made to the disciples and for us today. "Because I live, ye shall live also."

Let us remember God hears and answers our prayers according to his will. David said in Psalm 30:5 "For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life; weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning."

(From "The GOOD NEWS Newsletter", April, 2007)

**ANSWERS
BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE
READ RIGHT TO LEFT**

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| ACROSS: | DOWN: |
| 1. eltnam | 1. snoisnam |
| 4. emal | 2. esion |
| 6. haon | 3. ymene |
| 7. nur | 4. tsal |
| 8. elsi | 5. baha |
| 9. emas | 7. troper |
| 11. bt | 10. ahsile |
| 12. ecirp | 13. uhile |
| 13. eye | 14. eye |
| 15. saw | 16. dner |
| 16. deliar | 17. hsid |
| 18. etsat | 19. dnuoba |
| 21. afni | 20. rednet |
| 23. serudne | 22. rehtaf |
| 25. dnuos | 24. tsaor |
| 26. etah | 27. tna |
| 27. gaga | 29. ew |
| 28. neesnu | |
| 29. peew | |
| 30. eltit | |

"For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil." I Peter 3:12)

THE WAY OF MAN—THE WAY OF GOD



By Elder Larry Wise
Randolph, Mississippi

It seems that mankind will never completely come to the realization that the way of man is not compatible with the way of God. The religious theology of the modern world tells mankind that they can make their own way in the world and even make their own way into heaven itself by making the proper decision. However, the word of God says, "O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." Jeremiah 10:23

There is not anything within natural mankind that would ever cause him to direct his ways and thoughts toward God and spiritual things. This is because he is in a state of nature being born into the world with the nature of Adam which is prone to sin as the sparks fly upward. The third chapter of Romans gives the description of the way of man; it is declared that men are all gone out of the way; that destruction and misery are in their ways; and the way of peace they have not known. This is the condition of everyone who is born into this world unless they have been changed from death unto life while still in mother's womb as was John the Baptist.

Can we teach any individual whose ways are outside the ways of the Lord to know the Lord or anything about Him from a spiritual standpoint? The apostle Paul answers this question as he proclaims, "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them because they are spiritually discerned." 1 Cor. 2:14 Mankind cannot be taught the things of God because the capacity to receive the message of the Spirit is not present being still chained up in the depravity of sin. The way of man is right in his own eyes and only the Lord can change this view of himself by sending His Holy Spirit into the heart and thus bring about a change of heart, way and mind. Religious theology of today says that God will come into your heart and save you only when you ask Him; this teaching in essence says that man Can direct his steps while the scripture says that he cannot.

It is clear that the Holy Spirit is the means of the immediate cause of the new birth and brings about a

new creature in Christ Jesus. The way of man cannot direct the Holy Spirit as it is sovereign as is the wind which is likened unto the Spirit in the new birth. The word of God clearly defines who is in charge of directing the Spirit and it is not in man. "Who hath directed the Spirit of the LORD, or being his counsellor hath taught him? With whom took he counsel, and who instructed him, and taught him in the path of judgment, and taught him knowledge, and shewed to him the way of understanding?" Isa. 40:13-14 When the Lord directs His Holy Spirit into the heart, the message of the gospel can then be taught because the spiritual capacity to receive spiritual things is now present.

The way of man is not in himself; we should have enough reasoning to know that our steps cannot be directed by our own strength. When anybody is left to self, they can only go in one direction and that is the way of the world and not the way of God. Peter was left to Himself, and he ended up denying the Saviour of his soul three times. We should never pray for the Lord to leave us alone and Jesus tells us, "...for without me ye can do nothing." John 15:5 Peter's ways did not acknowledge the Lord as he leaned to self, not the Lord. "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." Proverbs 3:5-6

The message of current society seems to be that we can make ourselves what we want to be and when we want. This is not the message that comes from God. This is the message found in the Old and New Testament. "Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture." Psalms 100:3 "But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed on me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me." 1 Cor.15:10

All anyone needs to do today to have the media, courts, and government come down upon them is just declare the true way of the Lord which contradicts what is sanctioned today. People have departed from the ways that were once pleasing to God. It seems they have been obstinate as the Israel of old. "Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein." Jeremiah 6:16 What is wrong with walking in the way of the Lord? There is nothing wrong; everything is right but Satan is doing a good job enticing the people of God to step outside the way of the Lord. When this occurs, there is only one place to land and that is in the ditch. It is always easier to get into the ditch than to get out. To avoid the ditch, we must stay in the middle of the road following directions laid out in the word of God and depend upon Him for all our needs.

A WHISKER CAT



By Elder Tim McCool
Gordo, Alabama

Pastor, Bethlehem Primitive Baptist Church

Recently I took two of my children with me on a road trip for work. As we traveled along, one of my daughters said, “Daddy, I just saw a whisker cat that lives in the water.” I responded by asking her what she meant. Through some questioning I was able to determine what she was talking about. Many times we form opinions and make determinations about matters without even investigating. Prov. 18:13 says, *“He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him.”* Making an inquiry at the source is the way to understand it better. Second hand information is usually tainted with opinion or “shaded” facts, or partial facts, at best.

The scriptural teaching of God electing a people in Christ and predestinating them to be ultimately conformed to His image is one such matter that many form opinions about without checking the source. No theologian, no authority, no opinion can provide God’s people with the proper understanding on such a matter except for the Source from which it comes—the Bible, the inspired word of God (2 Tim. 3:16).

The book of Acts 17:11 declares that the believers in Berea “were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with readiness of mind, and *searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.*” Can we say that about ourselves? I enjoy preaching the complete salvation in Christ—election by the Father, redemption by the Son, sanctification by the Spirit (1 Peter 1:2). In its complete form, it takes the pressure off the burdened sinner who is unable to meet the conditions that man has placed on one to go to heaven. In its complete form, it gives incentive to selflessly labor in spreading His gospel and relieving the oppressed.

Let us be more noble, as they were in Berea, by not taking a personal opinion or personal belief. There is nothing to hide in the word of God—only truth that we so desperately need. Let us gauge every matter, including Biblical teachings like predestination, by the only Authority—the word of God. Let us also pray that

those seeking the truth out in the religious world would go to the source, and not take opinions as to what they have heard Primitive Baptists believe. The best person to ask about what a person believes is that person! If a person wants to know what you believe, be ready to give an answer to every man that asks you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.

Before forming an opinion as to what my young daughter meant when she said she saw “a whisker cat that lives in the water,” I inquired at the source from which it came—her! Are you wondering what the answer was? Surely you can figure that out. If you can’t ask me sometime—or ask my daughter.

(From *“The Pathway of Truth”*, March, 2005)

ISAIAH L. 11

Behold, all ye that kindle a fire, that compass yourselves about with sparks; walk in the light of your fire, and in the sparks that ye have kindled. This shall ye have of mine hand; ye shall lie down in sorrow.—Isa. L. 11

A brother from Chunky, Miss., I believe was the place, asks my views on the above Scripture. I have mislaid his letter, and can’t remember his name. No doubt this was said to the Jews, as a nation, who rejected Christ and preferred their own righteousness rather than the righteousness of Christ. They ignored the law and the prophets, and for their wickedness and unbelief were rejected of God as a nation, and are to this day. They kindled their own fire, made their own light, and their cup of sorrow has been filled to an overflowing. But it has a deeper meaning, I think. God’s people might kindle their own fire, and walk in the light of the sparks of that fire; and when they do, they, too, shall lie down in sorrow. Sparks are of short duration—they soon go out. So it is with all the joys that spring from the fire that man kindles. Christ is the great spiritual Sun and all the real spiritual light we have. He is “the light of the world;” and the joys that spring from this real genuine light are everlasting. This fire warms our cold hearts, dissolves the icebergs of unbelief and infidelity. There is no heat in sparks. In fact, the pleasures of this poor world are nothing but vanity. Why the poor child of God would pursue such a course when there is nothing but sorrow in it, I cannot tell; but they do. Many passages of Scripture teach the end of such a course. For instance, the man that built his house on the sand; he lost it all. But the man that built on a rock—his house stood. Lasting joys are found only in serving the Lord. These are a few of my thoughts. Compare them with the word of God. S.N.R. (Elder S. N. Redford—*“The Primitive Baptist”*, August 17, 1939

God be with you until, by God’s grace, we meet again
in the next Glad Tidings.